

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for making pods of filter material containing products for infusion, the method comprises the following steps:

making at least one compressed disk of product, equivalent to a dose of the product, at respective dosing and forming stations, said step of making the disk comprising a step of tamping to compress the product by translating and rotating a respective forming piston; and

forming the a pod with the compressed disk positioned inside the filter paper material,

wherein the step of making the disk comprises the steps of:

depositing a dosed quantity of the product in a respective impression while moving along a first defined path of the forming station; and

compressing the dose of product inside the impression while moving along a second defined path following the first path.

Claim 2      **(Cancelled).**

3. **(Currently Amended)**      The method according to claim 1, where wherein the pods comprise two pieces of filter material placed over each other and sealed and containing a dose of the product for infusion, the method further comprising the following steps:

feeding a first portion of filter material;

making the compressed disk of product, equivalent to a dose of the product, at respective dosing and forming stations;

depositing the compressed disk on the first portion of filter material; and

associating a second portion of filter material with the first portion of filter material to encapsulate the compressed disk to form the pod.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the first and second portions of filter material are obtained from webs of the same filter material.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the first portion of filter material is obtained from a web fed in a straight line.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3, wherein between the step of placing the compressed disk and the associating step there is a further step of making in the second portion of filter material a counter-impression shaped to match the disk and designed to be placed over the disk.

Claim 7 **(Cancelled)**.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 7 1, wherein between the dosing and compressing sub-steps there is a step of levelling off the dosed product inside the impression.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 7 1, wherein the first and second defined paths are arc-shaped and cover respective angles ( $\alpha$ ) and ( $\beta$ ) following each other.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the depositing step is accomplished by allowing the compressed disk to drop out of a respective impression by gravity onto the first portion of filter material.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the depositing step is accomplished by allowing the compressed disk of product to drop out of a respective impression by gravity onto the first portion of filter material ~~where it is~~ and held in place by suction.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the step of associating the first and second portions of filter material is performed by heat sealing.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 3, wherein the associating step is followed by a step of cutting the first and second portions of filter material to form the pod.

14. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for making pods containing products for infusion, the pods ~~comprises~~ each comprise two pieces of filter material placed over each other and sealed and containing a dose of the product for infusion; the apparatus comprising:

at least two independent stations for feeding respective portions of filter

material, the apparatus comprising:

a station for feeding the first portion of filter material in a feed direction

[[A)];

~~a station for dosing individual doses of the product into~~ at least one forming impression located on means for forming a respective disk of the infusion product and releasing the disk onto the first portion of filter material;

a station for dosing individual doses of the product into said at least one forming impression; and

a station for associating the first portion of filter material with the second portion of filter material to form the pod;

wherein the feed station comprises:

a first endless belt trained around a pair of sheaves and having a perforated or porous surface; and

means for creating a vacuum at least at the a working section of the first belt which feeds the first portion of filter material and on which the product disk is deposited.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein downstream of the dosing and forming station in the feed direction [[A)], the apparatus further comprises a station for making a counter-impression in the second portion of filter material and placing the counter-impression over the product disk.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the two stations for feeding the filter material unwind respective webs of the filter material.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein downstream of the associating station, the apparatus further comprises a station for cutting off the disk encapsulated in the two portions of filter material to form a pod.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a station for separating the pod from the waste material, which is collected in a recovery station.

Claim 19 **(Cancelled)**.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the dosing station comprises a fixed hopper mounted to face a first revolving drum, forming part of the forming means; the hopper having an arc-shaped discharge portion to peripherally follow a passing surface of the first drum in such manner that the product is dosed in a predetermined area.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the means for forming the disk comprises:

a first revolving drum equipped with a plurality of pistons arranged radially on the surface of the first drum and having a hollow head designed to receive a dose of the product fed by the dosing station; and

radial drive means being provided between each piston and the first drum to act upon the pistons in such manner as to impart a plurality of synchronised movements to the pistons according to their angular positions on a circular path **[(P)]** and so as to receive the product, compress the product to form the disk, detach and deposit the disk onto the first portion of filter material.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the radial drive means comprises cam means including at least one guide cam profile stably associated with the interior of the drum and engaged by a cam follower roller for each piston; each cam follower roller being attached to the end of a respective connecting rod whose other end is associated with a control pin rotatably connected to the inside end of the cylinder of the piston so as to drive the piston radially in both directions according to the angular position of the piston on the circular path **[(P)]**.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claims 21 and 22, wherein the cam means causes each single piston to be positioned according to movements referenced to a relative position or angular section of the circular path **[(P)]** and corresponding to:

a first arc-shaped path section **[(P4)]** where the piston is radially retracted towards the first drum in such a way that the piston moves into a product dosing configuration when the piston reaches a point **[(P4A)]** corresponding to a bottom dead centre of the piston;

a second arc-shaped path section **[(P1)]** for dosing where the piston is initially at the bottom dead centre, in such manner as to collect as much product as possible in the head, and moves in a radial direction towards the outside of the first drum until the piston reaches the endpoint **[(P3)]** of the dosing station where there is a wall for levelling off the product accommodated in the impression; and

a third arc-shaped path section **[(P2)]** for tamping the disc, where the piston moves radially towards the outside of the first drum and against a stop wall corresponding to a top dead centre **[(P2M)]** of the piston where the piston remains until the piston starts on a fourth arc-shaped path section **[(P5)]** where the piston moves back up in order to facilitate detachment of the disc from the impression just before reaching the point **[(P0)]** where the disc is released.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the cam profile is divided into two arc-shaped sections, a fixed lower section and an adjustable upper section corresponding to a part of the path **[(P)]** of the pistons comprising at least one area where the product is filled into the pistons.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the first drum is equipped with rotational drive means acting on each piston and designed to continuously revolve each piston about a corresponding axis; the rotational drive means comprising a fixed ring gear mounted inside the

first drum and meshed with corresponding gear wheels keyed to the respective cylinder of each piston so that the pistons revolve continuously as they move round the circular path **[(P)]**, thus tamping the disk and preventing the disk from sticking inside the head of the piston while enabling the disk to be detached completely when it is deposited on the first portion of filter material.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein arc-shaped walls round the outer surface of the first drum designed to permit the pistons to be pushed against the impressions in a part of the circular path **[(P)]** and in such a way as to co-operate with the pistons at least when the disk is formed and compressed.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein that the first portion of filter material is fed close to the first drum along an inclined path that partially and peripherally follows the surface of the first drum in an area close to where the disk is deposited on the first portion of filter material.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein downstream of the dosing and forming stations in the feed direction, the apparatus further comprises a station for making a counter-impression in the second portion of filter material and placing the counter-impression over the product disk, and wherein the station for making the counter-impression on the second portion of filter material comprises a second drum presenting a plurality of recesses distributed uniformly on its outer surface to which the second



portion of filter material is held by suction; one section of a second endless forming belt being located and operative on a portion of the surface of the second drum and being equipped with protrusions positioned and shaped to match the recesses as the latter move round, thus making a counter-impression on the second portion placed between the second drum and the second belt by pushing the second portion into the recesses.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the associating station comprises a circular sealing element positioned under the second drum and designed to seal the first portion of filter material, with the disk thereon, to the second portion of filter material placed over the disk to form a succession of sealed pods.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the cutoff station comprises a circular knife and a counter-knife positioned on opposite sides of a feed line **[(A)]** of the first and second portions of filter material sealed to each other and forming a succession of pods.

31. **(New)** A method for making pods of filter material containing products for infusion, the method comprises the following steps:

making at least one compressed disk of product, equivalent to a dose of the product, at respective dosing and forming stations, said step of making the disk comprising a step of tamping to compress the product by translating and rotating a respective forming piston;

depositing the compressed disk on a first portion of the filter material;

and

forming the pod with the compressed disk positioned inside the filter

paper.